

ANWR Exploration Passes the House Again

With prices at the gas pump soaring, Rep. Devin Nunes is once again helping take the lead to increase the domestic supply of oil and natural gas, which could lower prices for consumers and reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil. On May 25, the House passed – with Congressman Nunes’ support – H.R. 5429, the American Made Energy and Good Jobs Act. This bill would provide for energy exploration and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) that will take place under the most stringent environmental protection requirements ever applied to federal energy project, using the most sophisticated 21st Century technology available.



Source: Alaska Department of Natural Resources

The coastal plain of ANWR is of particular interest for its massive energy potential, which is estimated to be the largest discovery of oil in the United States. In April of 2003, Rep. Nunes traveled with members of the Resources Committee to Alaska, where they held a field hearing on possible energy development in the area.

“I expected to see mountains, trees and caribou. For the most part, it’s 19 million acres of flat land covered in ice,” Rep. Nunes said. The House is proposing allowing oil and gas production on 2,000 of the 19 million acre refuge. Unfortunately, the Senate has not recently acted on a bill allowing exploration in ANWR, and the American people are feeling the impact every time they go to fill up their cars.

He added, “Had President Clinton not vetoed the ANWR Bill in 1995, then we would have a minimum of 1 million additional barrels of oil a day flowing into the lower 48 states.”

Medicare Prescription Drug Sign-up Period Closes

As the May 15 deadline for seniors to sign-up for Medicare’s prescription drug benefit has come and gone, Congressman Nunes took time to praise the impact the new program is having on the lives of seniors in the San Joaquin Valley.

“38 million seniors are now receiving prescription drugs for free or for drastically reduced prices, and I was proud to support the passage of this measure,” said Rep. Nunes.

Approximately 90 % of Medicare beneficiaries are

now receiving this benefit, with nearly 60,000 residing in Tulare and parts of Fresno Counties. The commitment by House Republicans to provide opportunities for people to get personalized assistance and make a decision whether to enroll in the benefit, contributed to over 50,000 Medicare events having been held in towns across America. But, there is more work to be done. While the next open enrollment period begins on November 15, some people can still sign-up penalty-free. This includes seniors and individuals with disabilities who have limited

income and resources, victims of Hurricane Katrina, as well as those who turn 65 in the coming year. Those who think they fall into one of these categories should apply by calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213.

Congressman Nunes added, “I strongly urge anyone that is eligible to review the plans and sign-up as soon as possible.”

Quick Facts

Rep. Devin Nunes maintains two offices in the 21st Congressional District to serve the needs of his constituents.

His main office is in Visalia at 113 N. Church St., Suite 208, 93291. The telephone number is 733-3861.

His Fresno County office is in Clovis at 264 Clovis Ave., Suite 206, 93612. The telephone number is 323-5235.